GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6716
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
BORDER DISPUTES
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Oram Shri Jual;Ponnuswamy Shri E.;Sonowal Shri Sarbananda

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border disputes among the States still remain unresolved;

(b) if so, the status thereof as on date, separately;

(c) the efforts made to settle the border dispute in NE States and other parts of the country; and

(d) by when a permanent solution will be found?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c): As per available information, there are border disputes in NE States between Assam - Meghalaya; Assam - Arunachal Pradesh and Assam - Nagaland. The Central Government got a study conducted on the boundary dispute between Assam and Nagaland in 1976 and constituted the Shastri Commission to deal with the dispute between the two States. Similarly, a Tripartite Committee was constituted by the Central Government to deal with the border dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Government of Assam has filed two separate suits before the Hon`ble Supreme Court regarding its boundary dispute with Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. These cases are pending in the Court. There have been border disputes mostly arising out of claims and counter claims between Bihar - Uttar Pradesh; Haryana - Uttar Pradesh. With a view to resolve the border dispute between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of boundaries) Act, 1968 was enacted. The Haryana-Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of Boundaries) Act, 1979 was enacted in order to settle the border dispute between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Further, there is a boundary dispute between Punjab and Haryana relating to the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. Three Commissions have so far been appointed to determine the areas of Punjab that should go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. However the dispute still persists.

Further, as per available information, the State of Andhra Pradesh has boundary disputes with Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Further, the State of Orissa has disputes with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. There are also boundary disputes between Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. None of these State Governments have approached the Central Government to resolve their boundary disputes.

With a view to settle the boundary dispute between Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, the Central Government constituted a one-man Mahajan Commission, which had submitted its report in August 1967. The dispute still persists since the Government of Karnataka insists on the implementation of the recommendations of the Mahajan Commission in toto, while Government of Maharashtra does not accept the Commission`s recommendations. The Government of Maharashtra has filed a suit in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India, which is pending in the Apex Court.

The approach of the Central Government has consistently been that inter State boundary disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that the Central Government works only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute in a spirit of mutual accommodation and understanding.

(d): It is not possible to indicate the exact time frame by when these disputes can be resolved.